

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OC-06 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00
OES-07 ACDA-07 /085 W
-----130552Z 046255 /10

R 110925Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3926
INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2942

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, PFOR, US
SUBJ: ETHIOPIA PRESS ON USG INSTALLATION CLOSURES

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 2453, B. ADDIS ABABA 2452

SUMMARY: MAY 5 AMHARIC PRESS ABIOT FORUM COLUMN AND MAY 7 ETHIOPIAN
HERALD REVOLUTIONARY FORUM TRANSLATION OF SAME, DENOUNCED
FOUR U.S. INSTALLATIONS CLOSED BY EPMG, AND SUBJECTED
USAID TO THINLY VEILED ATTACK. DENOUNCEMENT ACCOMPANIED
BY INCREASINGLY TYPICAL DIATRIBE AGAINST AMERICAN
IMPERIALISM. MAY 4 AMHARIC PRESS ABIOT FORUM SINGLED OUT U.S.
NAMRU-5 FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S MAY DAY RALLY
SPEECH WHICH INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT "ONE OF VICTORIES
ETHIOPIAN MASSES HAVE GAINED IS CRIPPLING OF FOUR
IMPERIALIST TENTACLES ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE, EXPLOITATIVE
AND CULTURALLY DECADENT ACTIVITIES", ETHIOPIAN MEDIA
HAVE ATTACKED FOUR USG ORGANIZATIONS EXPELLED BY EPMG.
MAY 5 ABIOT FORUM CLAIMED USIS AND KAGNEW STATION
CLOSED BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN SPYING ON POLITICAL AND
MILITARY MOVEMENTS OF VARIOUS THIRD WORLD AND EAST
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EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. USIS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH
CORRUPTING YOUTH OF ETHIOPIA BY "DIVERTING INTERESTS
AND POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF OPPRESSED MASSES AND
DISTORTING PROGRESSIVE IDEOLOGIES..." AND BY INTRO-
DUCING "NOTORIOUS AMERICAN MUSIC, FILMS, AND
MAGAZINES". EDITORIAL FURTHER CLAIMED THAT SINCE
DEFEAT OF AMERICAN IMPERIALIST ATTEMPTS AT DIRECT

AND INDIRECT INVATION, USIS BECAME WEAPON OF EFFORTS TO SUBJECT OPPRESSED MASSES VIA PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE. THUS USIS BECAME "ENGAGED IN ADVANCING CHEAP IMPERIALIST CULTURE AND PRODUCTION OF MORAL DEGENERATES."

2. ACCORDING TO MAY 5 ABIOT FORUM, AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS USE VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TO COLLUDE WITH RULING CLASSES OF DEVELOPING NATIONS TO "SUSTAIN THEM IN POWER AGAINST MASS REVOLUTIONARY UPRISINGS". IN RETURN U.S. RECEIVES GUARANTEE OF EXPLOITATIVE SYSTEM WHEREBY AMERICAN DEMAND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES IS SATISFIED AT EXPENSE OF OPPRESSED MASSES. EDITORIAL NOTED U.S. HAD PROVIDED MORE THAN US\$275 MILLION WORTH OF MILITARY AID TO ETHIOPIA PREVIOUS 20 YEARS WHICH HAD STRENGTHENED ABSOLUTE MONARCHICAL RULE OF HAILE SELASSIE, WHO REMAINED "MAIN AGENT OF IMPERIALIST EXPANSION AND EXPOSED HIS COUNTRY TO HEAVY EXPLOITATION NATURAL RESOURCES."

3. IN THINKLY VEILED ATTACK ON USAID, EDITORIAL CITED "922 MILLION BIRR" WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION. QUOTING FROM HIGHWAY AUTHORITY REPORT, ONLY 8,869 KMS OF ROADS ACTUALLYCONSTRUCTED AND LESS THAN HALF PAVED. REMAINDER OF MONEY WAS "USED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VILLAS AND WENT TO POCKETS OF HAILE SELASSIE AND HIS SUBORDINATES." SIMILARLY, ENORMOUS SUM OF MONEY DID NOT BENEFIT ETHIOPIA BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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"ALL TENDERS GIVEN AMERICAN COMPANIES EVEN IN PRESENCE OTHER COMPANIES WHICH OFFERED LOWER PRICES..." COLUMN STATED, IN GENERAL, "AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS GIVE ASSISTANCE LIKE PERSON WHO GIVES SOMETHING WITH RIGHT HAND AND TAKES IT BACK WITH LEFT. IMPERIALISTS BENEFIT RULING CLASS WHILE THEY EXPLOIT MASSESM"

4. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE ATTACKS, EDITORIAL DENOUNCED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. EDITORIAL NOTED THERE 215 MILLION AMERICANS IN WORLD OF MORE THAN 3 BILLION, AND THESE AMERICANS CONSUME MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF WORLD'S RESOURCES. BECAUSE NOT ALL THSE RESOURCES LOCATED IN U.S., IT NECESSARY THEY BE "EXPLOITED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES BY U.S. MONOPOLY CAPITALISTS." U.S. ACHIEVED ITS PRE-EMINENCE AT PINNACLE OF TECHNOLOGY BY EXPLOITING RAW MATERIALS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. USING OIL AS EXAMPLE, EDITORIAL CHARGED "OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF WORLD'S MAJOR OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES... ARE BEING SUCKED BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, WHICH

PATRONIZES RULING CLASSES OF THESE COUNTRIES AGAINST THEIR INSECURITY AND NATIONAL POWERS."

5. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT SINCE ETHIOPIA HAS NOW "STOPPED ACCEPTING AMERICAN AID", IT HAS AMANCIPATED ITSELF FROM "IMPERIALIST POLITICAL OPPRESSION AND ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION." "PRESENCE OF IMPERIALIST AGENTS IN OUR COUNTRY RESULTED IN SPREADING NOTORIOUS WESTERN CULTURE WND THREATENED OUR ONGOING REVOLUTION WITH DISRUPTION." EPMG DECISION ORDERING CLOSURE OF AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS TERMED "RIGHT DECISION."

6. MAY 4 ADDIS ZEMEN ABIOT FORUM NAMED NAMRU-5 AS ONE OF SEVERAL ANTI-ETHIOPIAN ARRANGEMENTS MADE BETWEEN "LAST FEUDO-BOURGEOIS REGIME AND AMERICAN IMPAERIALISTS." FAR FROM BENEFITTING "DISEASE-RIDDEN ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, NAMRU EXISTED SOLEY TO AID
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AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN ETHIOPIA. NAMRU ALSO MADE NO "EFFORT TO TRAIN ETHIOPIANS IN MEDICAL SERVICE," BUT CONTRIBUTED TO "REDUCTION OF ALREADY TRAINED MEDICAL PERSONNEL BY CREATING CONDITIONS THROUGH WHICH THEY LEFT COUNTRY FOR U.S." FINNALY, NAMRU ACCUSED OF BEING MAIN ELEMENT IN AMERICAN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITY BY VIRTUE OF ABILITY TO MOVE FREELY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY "GATHERING MILITARY AND OTHER POLITICAL INFORMATION UNDER FACADE OF MEDICAL UNIT."

7. COMMENT: WHILE ATTACKS ON CLOSED U.S. INSTALLATIONS EXPECTED, PRESS ATTACK ON AID PROGRAM ONE OF MANY CONFLICTING SIGNALS EMBASSY RECEIVING ON FUTURE OF USAID IN ETHIOPIA. IN ADDITION TO ATTACK ON ROAD BUILDING PROGRAM WHICH STILL PART OF USAID'S EFFORTS HERE, EMBASSY NOTES THAT PARTIAL RATIONALE FOR CLOSING NAMRU (I.E., GATHERING MILITARY AND OTHER POLITICAL INFORMATION WHILE TRAVELING THROUGH COUNTRYSIDE) CAN EQUALLY BE APPLIED TO MAJORITY OF USAID PROGRAMS IN ETHIOPIA. FACT THAT AID NOT EXPELLED WITH OTHER U.S. AGENCIES IS INDICATION THAT EPMG PLACES VALUE ON CONTINUED AID PROGRAM, WHILE PRESS ATTACKS INDICATE MORE RADICAL FACTIONS NO DOUBT WISH USAID HAD DEPARTED WITH OTHER EXPELLED AGENCIES. USAID HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH PRECEDED NAMRU EXPULSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, EXPULSION, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS02942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770168-0892
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770572/aaaackdk.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45f74497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 2453, 77 ADDIS ABABA 2452
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2577022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIA PRESS ON USG INSTALLATION CLOSURES
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45f74497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009